REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and naintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services. Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503.

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)

2. REPORT DATE

October 1995

3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED

Professional Paper

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE

5. FUNDING NUMBERS

AN APPROXIMATE METHOD FOR MODELING VEGETATION EFFECTS OVER
TERRAIN

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7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)

8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER

Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center (NCCOSC) RDT&E Division

San Diego, CA 92152–5001

9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)

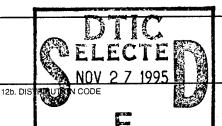
Naval Command, Control and Ocean Surveillance Center (NCCOSC) RDT&E Division

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11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

12a. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.



10. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER

13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

This paper describes a simple method implemented in a terrain split-step parabolic equation model (TPEM) that can model radiowave fields over terrain in which the ground is modified to approximate the vegetation.

19951122 049

Published in Proceedings of URSI-National Radio Science Meeting, p. 65, January 3, 1995

14. SUBJECT TERMS

Terrain Split-Step Parabolic Equation Model (TPEM) Ground Elevation

Terrain Path

UNCLASSIFIED

17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT 18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE

UNCLASSIFIED

19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT

UNCLASSIFIED

16. PRICE CODE

15. NUMBER OF PAGES

20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT

SAME AS REPORT

UNCLASSIFIED

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AN APPROXIMATE METHOD FOR MODELING VEGETATION EFFECTS OVER TERRAIN

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There are currently several models that have been validated that can model radiowave fields over terrain (R.J. Luebbers, *IEEE Ant. and Prop.*, 951-955, 1984, S. Ayasli, *IEEE Ant. and Prop.*, 1013-1023, 1986, A.E. Barrios, *IEEE Ant. and Prop.*, 90-98, 1994). While these models perform adequately when the terrain path is absent of any major vegetation such as trees and large brush, they fail to adequately account for the increased attenuation observed when vegetation is present.

A simple method, implemented in a terrain split-step parabolic equation model (TPEM), is presented in which the ground is modified to approximate the vegetation. The method consists of simply increasing the ground elevation by the height of the intervening trees or brush. This method is particularly useful when the topography of the terrain path is poorly described, in which case the ground elevation can then be adjusted by an average value along the entire path.

An example is shown below in which fields were measured over a 6 km long terrain path at a frequency of 910 MHz (K.A. Chamberlin, R.J. Luebbers, *IEEE Ant. and Prop.*, 1093-1098, 1982). Signals were measured under two conditions, one in which the terrain path was clear, and one in which a grove of trees blocked the propagation path.

